

## Schinnen Safe Rider – Motorcycle Equipment Failures

Most motorcycle equipment failures are minor when they occur and cause no great threat to your riding safe. For those, you just note the problem and get them fixed as soon as you can. Other failures especially tire blowouts, stuck throttles and broken clutch cables, can be extreme events which, if handled improperly, can lead to a serious accident or can cause the driver to be overly pre-occupied on with the situation also leading to an accident. In these cases, learning through experience is something you probably don't want to do, so read on to learn what to do if it happens to you.

### BLOWOUTS.

If you run tires of good quality, keep them at the proper pressure, and change them when the tread is worn, the chances of having a blowout are small. Should it happen to either of your tires, you must act quickly and properly.

1. Do not use the brakes; braking hard will only make things worse. If you must use some brake, apply gradual pressure to the brake on the good tire and ease over to a safe spot to stop.

2. Ease off the throttle and slow down gradually; rapid deceleration could throw the bike out of control.

3. Hold the handlebars firmly; a great shuddering may take place as the out-of-round tire flops against the pavement, but you are concerned only with keeping the front wheel pointed ahead until you stop.

### STUCK THROTTLES.

Most riders have had bad dreams about this, but few have experienced the problem. That is why all contemporary motorcycles have a cut-off switch by the right thumb. Just in case. Practice flipping the cut-off switch. Chances are you will never have a throttle stick, but if you do, you'll know how to deal with it. As you hit the cut-off switch, pull in the clutch (you will probably be in gear; then look for a safe place to coast to a stop.

### BROKEN CLUTCH CABLES.

Imagine you are cruising along in fifth gear; you want to shift down; you pull in the clutch lever – and there is no return action. It just lies up against the handle grip. No fun, but not dangerous. You can shift the bike without a clutch. This is not advisable unless necessary, but it can be done. Back off on the throttle and shift down a gear. If you have a sensitive foot, you can probably find natural before coming to a complete stop. If not, get set for a jerky halt.

Schinnen Safe Riders – Drive to Arrive.  
USAG Schinnen Installation Safety Office

